

Summary of the March 16, 2005 Interview With USPTO Staff

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On March 16, 2005 I met with patent examiner Paul Royal and his supervisor Lesley Morris. The meeting was cordial and productive. I explained our patent and what we consider to be the differences between our application 10/729,893 and the prior art referenced in the Gay patent, which the patent office felt we were in conflict with. After going through the background and the summary of our patent, I believe they had a better understanding of our application.

The Examiners reviewed our drawings and recommended changes to make them meet the USPTO requirements. Of significance was the recognition of the notch feature in our application. It was agreed that feature was distinguishable, and if properly claimed would be allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiners recommended we follow the procedure for submitting our amended specification elements as appropriate. I was advised the Examiners would update the search of the prior art in light of the applicants amended claims to determine if the application is allowable. It was a good and productive meeting.